Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

# 2011/12
# Annual Service Plan Report

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# Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2011 12 Annual Service Plan Report,* outlining achievements during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012.

The *BC Jobs Plan* includes a commitment to ten new, non-treaty agreements with First Nations. When Aboriginal communities flourish, there are clear benefits not only for them, but for all British Columbians. This report highlights the ministry's ongoing efforts to build a stronger, more respectful relationship with First Nations and put in place initiatives that improve certainty for B.C.'s economy.

Over the past year, the ministry has achieved a number of significant milestones through innovative non-treaty agreements while continuing important work in the treaty process. Highlights include signing the historic Taku River Tlingit Strategic Engagement Agreement and Land Use Plan, and a reconciliation protocol with the Nanwakolas First Nations that has the potential for revenue-sharing opportunities from mines and clean-power. Shortly after that, the Haisla Nation became the seventh First Nation to join the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol. In 2011/12 the ministry signed 34 Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSAs), providing First Nation communities with economic benefits returning directly to their community based on harvest activities in their traditional territory. Through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund the ministry has provided equity funding to 41 First Nations, to help First Nations participate in the clean energy sector.

This past year also saw the creation of the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council to encourage economic development in Aboriginal communities, support greater participation of Aboriginal people in the economy and provide investors with the tools they need to engage and partner with B.C. First Nations.

Another milestone in 2012 was the announcement of the new allowable annual cut for Haida Gwaii, which was determined by the Haida Gwaii Management Council, a unique decision making body that was formed as a result of the Kunst'aa guu - Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol. This was the first time in B.C.'s history that an allowable annual cut has been determined by anyone other than the Chief Forester of B.C.

The ministry continues to lead provincial efforts in the tripartite treaty process. In April 2011, I stood alongside hundreds of members of the five Maa-nulth Nations as they celebrated the signing of their Final Agreement. Since then two Maa-nulth Nations, Huu-ay-aht and Ucluelet, have become part of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

Other treaty highlights include passing legislation to ratify the Yale First Nation Final Agreement, initialling the Tla'amin Nation (Sliammon First Nation) Final Agreement and signing the K'omoks First Nations Agreement-in-Principle. These three First Nations are at different stages in the journey towards treaty. They demonstrate that while achieving a treaty can take many years, the process itself can result in a stronger relationship with government partners and greater capacity in the community as they work towards long-term goals.

In the fall of 2011, ministry staff began working on a new government initiative, the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan. Committed to in the Throne Speech, the plan is sparked by the needs of Aboriginal people living off-reserve – more than 70% of British Columbia's Aboriginal population. The ministry will lead efforts across government to find ways to better deliver services to Aboriginal people living off-reserve, who continue to face disproportionate social-economic challenges.

Each member of the ministry shares in the success of what we have achieved. The ministry is building momentum in its work with Aboriginal people across the province, creating a brighter future that will benefit all British Columbians.

The *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation's 2011/12 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2011/12 – 2013/14 Revised Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

June 30, 2012

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# Highlights of the Year

In 2011/12, the ministry achieved agreements in all corners of the province. First Nations, industry and government often share the same goal of sustainable and planned development to achieve specific goals. Agreements that clarify responsibilities and lay out how the parties can work together improve investor confidence and create opportunities for First Nation communities to participate more fully in B.C.'s economy.

**Non-treaty agreements**

The Strategic Engagement Agreement and Land Use Plan with Taku River Tlingit First Nation, signed in July 2011, is the first of its kind in B.C. The land use plan covers an area that is close to the size of Vancouver Island and includes one of B.C.'s most significant Salmon Watersheds.

*The confluence of the Sloko and Nakina Rivers at the heart of Taku territory. The Atlin Taku land use plan's name, Wóoshtin wudidaa ("flowing together"), was inspired by these two rivers coming together to flow as one.*

In November 2011, B.C. and members of the Nanwakolas Council celebrated three significant milestones in a growing partnership: a reconciliation protocol, a forestry agreement and an addition to an existing Strategic Engagement Agreement. The agreements will help members of the council maintain their important relationship to the land while supporting economic growth. The agreements allow for revenue-sharing opportunities for tourism, mines and clean-power projects. Carbon-offset sharing opportunities will also be implemented. Another key benefit of the protocol is the negotiation of a comprehensive forestry schedule giving five First Nations access to timber licenses.

The Sts'ailes Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on November 1, 2011. The MOU creates a more efficient approach to the management of land and natural resources in Sts'ailes traditional territory in the Fraser Valley. The MOU covers a range of diverse initiatives including forestry opportunities, land exchanges, hydroelectric projects, tourism, conservation, coordinated consultation, child and family services, and health care—all of which form the basis for future government-to-government agreements.

In November 2011, the Haisla Nation became the seventh First Nation to sign the Coastal First Nations Reconciliation Protocol. This will create economic opportunities and increase certainty over the coastal land base for First Nations, industry and government.

**Treaties**

On October 21, 2011, the Tla'amin Final Agreement was initialled by the First Nation, Canada and the Province. The agreement will provide the Tla'amin people with the opportunity for increased economic opportunities for future generations, while continuing to honour their traditions and culture. The Tla'amin Final Agreement contains provisions for self-government, financial and land transfers. The treaty also provides for the ownership of forestry resources, as well as domestic fishing, gathering and harvesting rights.

*Members of the Tla'amin Nation perform a dance at the initialling of the Tla'amin Final Agreement.*

Provincial legislation to ratify the Yale Final Agreement was passed on June 2, 2011. Once the bill passes the federal Parliament, the three parties will set a date for the treaty to take effect.

On March 24, 2012, the K'ómoks Agreement in Principle (AiP) was signed. The AiP includes a commitment to negotiate the early transfer of two parcels of land to the K'ómoks First Nation, bringing the benefits of a final treaty to the community earlier in the process.

**Vancouver Island Aboriginal Youth Workers Forum**

Aboriginal youth represent the fastest growing demographic in Canada, and will be asked by their communities to step into future leadership positions under increasingly complex circumstances. In the fall of 2011, the ministry's Community Development Branch Youth Initiatives Team hosted over 60 Vancouver Island-based Aboriginal youth workers in the first Aboriginal Youth Workers Forum in Campbell River. The forum was developed to meet needs for training and networking opportunities for community youth workers, who offer critical support to young people. Participants left with new skills, ideas and connections from the workshop presenters, ideas for energizing youth engagement and skills for reaching out and building broader community partnerships.

**National Aboriginal Women's Forum and Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women**

*Left to right: Native Women's Association of Canada President Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Minister Mary Polak, and Her Honour Gwendolyn Point at the Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum.*

The ministry, in partnership with the Native Women's Association of Canada, co-hosted the successful *Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum* in Vancouver, in June 2012. Over 250 delegates attended from across Canada including provincial, territorial, and federal government representatives along with national Aboriginal organizations, agencies and community practitioners. The forum focussed on sharing promising practices in the areas of prevention, intervention and post-incident response. A final forum report with key recommendations will be used to improve how supports are delivered in Aboriginal communities. The ministry implemented the commitment made by Minister Polak at the forum to create a Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women to provide advice on how government can support Aboriginal women across British Columbia.

**Building Public Service Capacity in Aboriginal Relations (BCAR)**

The ministry, in partnership with the Public Service Agency and guided by a joint Aboriginal/Government Advisory Council, continues to make strides in implementing the BCAR Strategy. The Aboriginal Relations Resource Centre, is a one-stop shop for advice and resources for B.C. public servants on building capacity to work effectively and respectfully with Aboriginal people, communities and organizations, it is fully operational and available to all provincial employees. Resources include Aboriginal engagement guidelines, a policy lens, speaker's bureau, blogs, and other items.

# Purpose of Ministry

Negotiating lasting agreements that contribute to reconciliation

British Columbia's innovative agreements with First Nations create clarity and predictability regarding the respective responsibilities of the Province and First Nations; increase capacity and opportunity in Aboriginal communities; establish partnerships that improve the investment climate; provide major economic benefits; and contribute to family and community stability.

*The Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation makes appointments to a number of agencies, boards and commissions including:*

- *New Relationship Trust Board,*
- *BC Treaty Commission,*
- *First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council,*
- *Haida Gwaii Management Council, and*
- *The First Peoples' Advisory Committee.*
- *Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women*

In the *BC Jobs Plan*, the government commits to ten new non-treaty agreements by 2015. The ministry leads the negotiation and implementation of provincial land and resource agreements to support economic development and build certainty on the land base, including a number of revenue sharing agreements with First Nations for forestry, new mines and other major developments. These agreements support First Nations' participation in development and help to facilitate partnerships with proponents.

The ministry negotiates treaties and related agreements with First Nations and Canada. Treaties offer the most comprehensive form of reconciliation agreement, and the highest degree of certainty on the land base. Treaties provide First Nations with significant tools for social and economic development and self-government, and they remove First Nations from the constraints of the *Indian Act*.

The ministry's eight regional offices are responsible for managing relationships with First Nations and provide expert local support for negotiation of non-treaty agreements and implementation of treaty and non-treaty agreements. The regional presence supports conflict resolution, and serves as a liaison with other resource ministries. The regional offices also provide advice to industry on engaging with First Nations.

**Building relationships and developing strong partnerships**

The ministry builds relationships with Aboriginal peoples based on respect and recognition.

The ministry also plays a key role in promoting creative multi-sectoral and inter-jurisdictional work on Aboriginal initiatives. The ministry works in partnership with Aboriginal communities, organizations and people and brings together representatives from other ministries and Crown

agencies, other orders of government, and business and industry to identify new opportunities for economic participation and investment and job creation to support the goals of the *BC Jobs Plan*.

**Providing leadership and expert advice on policy relating to Aboriginal peoples**

*Minister Mary Polak and Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo in Ottawa.*

The ministry provides industry proponents and natural resource sector staff with strategic advice and best practices on a broad spectrum of issues to improve their ability to work successfully and partner with First Nations.

The ministry supports cross-government policy frameworks related to Crown-Aboriginal relations, economic development, social sectors (health, education and housing) and language and culture initiatives. In addition, the ministry is responsible for intergovernmental relations and national policy tables on social issues concerning Aboriginal peoples on and off-reserve. The ministry also supports and advises line ministries as they develop and implement Aboriginal social and economic policies and programs, such as the new Aboriginal Business and Investment Council developed under the *BC Jobs Plan*.

**Strengthening relationships with the Métis Nation**

The ministry continues to work in partnership with Métis Nation BC to achieve the objectives of the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. The ministry supports Métis Nation BC's efforts to enhance educational opportunities and to reinforce and regenerate Métis identity, history and culture through education. Métis are a distinct Aboriginal peoples, with unique language, history, and cultural traditions. Approximately 30 per cent of British Columbia's Aboriginal population self-identifies as Métis.

**Advancing the revitalization of Aboriginal language and culture**

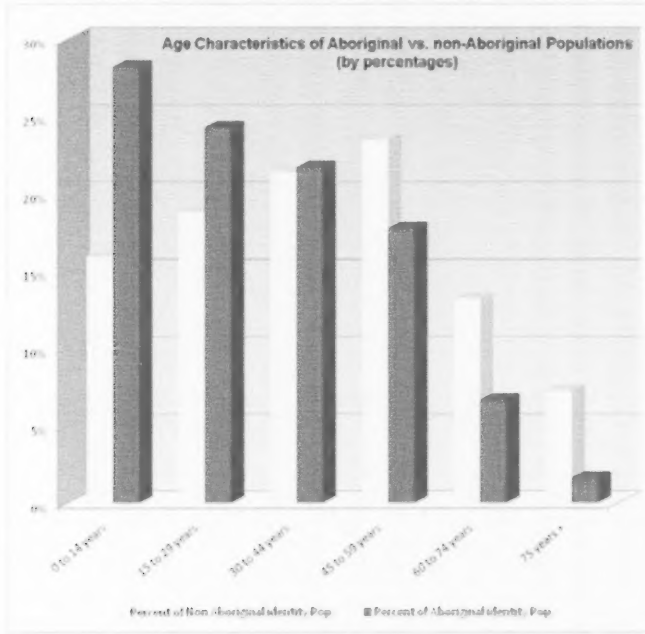
There are many strong and complex connections among language, culture and Aboriginal community well-being and sustainability. Language plays an important role in maintaining and reinforcing cultural identity. British Columbia is home to 32 distinct First Nations languages, representing about 60 per cent of all the indigenous languages in Canada. The ministry supports the revitalization of First Nations' language, heritage, culture and arts through the work of the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council. The council develops and administers programs such as the BC Aboriginal Language Initiative, which supports language revitalization through documentation, immersion programs and curriculum development. In addition, the ministry partners with the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council, the New Relationship Trust and the First Peoples Cultural Foundation to deliver language immersion programs among children, youth and elders, and to provide capacity and resource materials for First Nations language speakers and learners.

# Strategic Context

## The Legal Context

Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. Through a number of important decisions, the courts have reinforced that Aboriginal rights and title exist and that these rights influence the way government operates. The Supreme Court of Canada has stated that the ability of government to infringe those rights is constrained. Governments are legally required to consult with First Nations on decisions which have the potential to infringe rights. Infringements of Aboriginal and treaty rights must be justified and may include accommodation which can take many forms, including mitigating measures. The ministry is the lead agency within the provincial government for negotiating treaty and other arrangements that address the legal requirement flowing from Aboriginal rights and creating certainty for First Nations and all British Columbians.

## Demographic and social factors




In British Columbia, the Aboriginal population is characterized by unique demographic qualities that will inform policy and program decisions in the coming years.[1] British Columbia is home to 203 bands, over one-third of the more than 600 First Nations communities in Canada. This comprises the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups of Aboriginal peoples in the country. Approximately 200,000 people in the province identify themselves as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. Between 2001 and 2006, the Aboriginal population in B.C. grew by 15 per cent, more than three times the growth rate of the non-Aboriginal population.[2]

The fastest growing population demographic province-wide is Aboriginal youth. In fact, the median age of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia is approximately 12 years younger than the median age of the province's overall population. The provincial government engages

[1] 2006 Census. Data from BC Stats' *National Household Survey* will be available beginning in 2013.
[2] The increase is due in part to an increase in the number of individuals who self-identify as Aboriginal.

Aboriginal youth on related provincial policy and program development to seek ways to develop their potential to make important contributions and to accelerate job creation and growth.

Increasing urbanization is another demographic consideration. The 2006 Census reports that 74 per cent of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia lives off-reserve, with 60 per cent living in urban areas. The provincial government has committed to working with Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to develop an Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan. The plan will support improved coordination of programs and services delivered by the Province, Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments. It will reflect a community-driven and multi-stakeholder approach, and will improve socio-economic outcomes in key areas including employment, in support of the *BC Jobs Plan*. The Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan will also guide ministries and agencies in taking appropriate steps so Aboriginal people residing off-reserve have access to key services (i.e. health, education, housing, and employment).

## Negotiation and implementation of agreements

In 2011/12, British Columbia achieved an unprecedented number of agreements that directly support development in the resource sector. These agreements help build relationships with First Nations, resolve conflicts, or address concerns associated with development on traditional territories. This latitude and the breadth of agreement types serve to broaden the definition of reconciliation beyond rights and title and to reinforce the understanding that there are many paths to reconciliation.

As the number and types of agreements between B.C. and First Nations grow, the ministry will target further resources on agreement implementation.

*"Genuine collaboration is key to First Nations working more closely with industry and the Province to build a better economic future. This government's approach over the past decade has been to forge a stronger, more respectful relationship with First Nations, while also creating a climate where vital resource industries such as mining can flourish."*

*-Minister Mary Polak*

## Economic Context

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 2.9 per cent in 2011 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), following the growth of 3.0 per cent in 2010. Overall in 2011, most indicators of British Columbia's economic performance showed improvement compared to the previous year. Gains in the domestic economy were observed in employment and consumer spending, while external gains were made in exports and shipments of manufactured goods. However, several risks to British Columbia's economy remain, including the European sovereign debt crisis, ongoing weakness in the US economy, exchange rate volatility, and slower than anticipated Asian demand for B.C. products.

The *BC Jobs Plan* seeks to address economic challenges by delivering a set of tools and agreements that will stimulate the economy and investment. The *BC Jobs Plan* commits that, to be successful, First Nations must be active participants in the economy. B.C. is working to ensure that this occurs through agreements with First Nations, to build economic development capacity and provide opportunities for job creation.

The new Aboriginal Business Investment Council will work with Aboriginal communities and the private sector to make recommendations to government on strategies to help foster economic development in Aboriginal communities and increase overall investment in the province. The council will focus on the eight key sectors in the *BC Jobs Plan* – forestry, mining, natural gas, agri-foods, technology, tourism, transportation (marine and aerospace) and international education.

## Clean Energy

In April 2011, the ministry launched the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (FNCEBF). This fund was created as part of the *Clean Energy Act* to increase First Nation participation in clean, renewable energy projects within their traditional territories. Since this fund was launched, the ministry has completed three rounds of intake and committed approximately $1.96 million for capacity and equity funding to 41 First Nations. The FNCEBF will also allow for revenue sharing with successful applicants, based on provincial resource rents (i.e. land and water rentals), prescribed under the FNCEBF regulation, that result from clean energy projects that receive land or water authorizations after the enactment of the *Clean Energy Act*.

*The B.C. government's First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund is helping First Nations participate in the renewable energy business*

# Report on Performance

## Performance Results Summary Table

| Goal 1: Reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia<br>For greater detail see pages 16 to 21. | 2011/12 Target | 2011/12 Actual |
|---|---|---|
| **Objective 1:**<br>**Close the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians.**<br>Performance measure 1: New provincial policies and initiatives that have been developed collaboratively with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations. | 28 | 28<br>ACHIEVED |
| **Objective 2:**<br>**Reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal rights and treaty rights.**<br>Performance measure 2: Treaties and other agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation. | 20 | 39<br>EXCEEDED |
| **Objective 3:**<br>**Work with First Nations to create opportunities to increase community and economic development capacity.**<br>Performance measure 3: Initiatives that develop capacity and governance capabilities for First Nation governments and Aboriginal organizations. | 12 | 38<br>EXCEEDED |
| Performance measure 4: Initiatives that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples. | 15 | 16<br>EXCEEDED |
| **Objective 6:**<br>**Increase awareness of the importance of Aboriginal cultures, and the history of the relationship between the Province and Aboriginal peoples.**<br>Percentage of British Columbians who agree that First Nations have made a wide range of valuable contributions to British Columbia. | 75.5% | N/A[3] |

[3] BC Stats changed the possible answers for this question from 2010 to 2011. See text on page 23 for further details.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

## Goal 1: Lead provincial efforts for reconciliation with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples.

Reconciliation is an ongoing process, and rarely straightforward. It requires trust and commitment to overcome stumbling blocks along the way, and a willingness to learn from each other at all stages. Relationships built on mutual respect and recognition are key to making reconciliation possible.

*"B.C.'s treaty process is alive and well, but it's also important to recognize the progress that's being made beyond, and before, agreements-in-principle and final agreements."*

*-Minister Mary Polak*

### Objective 1: Close the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians.

### Strategies

Work across government, and in partnership with Aboriginal peoples, to implement the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* in areas such as education, housing and infrastructure, health, economic development, and Crown-Aboriginal relations.

Monitor and report on activities and progress towards meeting the goals of the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*.

Negotiate and implement agreements with First Nations, including treaties, which contribute to addressing social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians.

Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives to close the socio-economic gaps.

**Performance Measure 1: Collaborative policy development**

| Performance Measure | 2009/10 Actual | 20010/11 Actual | 2011/12 Target | 2011/12 Actual |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New provincial policies and initiatives that have been developed collaboratively with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations. | 20 | 25 | 28 | 28 ACHIEVED |

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and ministries participating in the implementation of *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*.

## Discussion of Results

The Province recognizes that partnerships with Aboriginal peoples are critical to improving social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. Collaboration on provincial policies and initiatives helps to ensure culturally appropriate and meaningful responses to key priorities. In 2011 the ministry partnered with the Native Women's Association of Canada to host a national forum with the goal of addressing issues that make Aboriginal women and girls more susceptible to violence. The ministry worked in partnership with the federal government, key provincial ministries and two First Nations communities to undertake on-reserve housing demonstration projects. The projects were designed to support the development and implementation of federally funded on-reserve housing (for renovations and new construction), using existing provincial training and employment programs.

Apart from direct engagement with Aboriginal peoples, the ministry also facilitated relationships between ministries and Aboriginal organizations and was instrumental in supporting and encouraging initiatives in the areas of housing, cultural awareness, education and health.

## Objective 2: Reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal rights and treaty rights.

## Strategies

Negotiate and implement lasting agreements that lead to reconciling provincial interests with Aboriginal rights and treaty rights and contribute to closing social and economic gaps.

Work with First Nation communities to build the capacity required to be ready for the treaty effective date, and use capacity development principles in negotiating and creating agreements.

Support the conclusion of agreements among First Nations, the B.C. Government and local governments.

Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through the trilateral processes.

**Performance Measure 2: Treaties and other agreements**

| Performance Measure | 2009/10 Actual | 20010/11 Actual | 2011/12 Target | 2011/12 Actual |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Treaties and other agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation. | 18 | 63 | 20 | 39 EXCEEDED |

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and ministries participating in the implementation of *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*.

**Discussion of Results**

In 2011/12, the ministry signed a significant number of agreements that directly support development in the resource sector. While treaty agreements are the Province's preferred means of reconciling Aboriginal rights and title with the sovereignty of the Crown, other types of agreements can also contribute to reconciliation. For example, incremental treaty agreements provide beneficial results in the short term, which build progress towards completion of final treaties. Strategic engagement agreements, economic and community development agreements, and Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSAs) are other examples of agreements the Province has with First Nations. FCRSAs are three-year agreements with First Nations that provide economic benefits based on forest harvesting activity within a First Nation's traditional territory. The ministry signed 34 FCRSAs in 2011/12.

The Tla'amin (Sliammon) Final Agreement was initialled by all three parties in October 2011. Bill 11 – 2011: *Yale First Nations Final Agreement Act* was passed on June 2, 2011. Once the bill passes the federal Parliament, the three parties will set a date for the treaty to take effect.

## Objective 3: Work with First Nations to create opportunities to increase community and economic development capacity.

### Strategies

Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.

Work with other ministries to champion access to business venture and economic development opportunities such as resource development agreements, benefit and other strategic agreements, and employment initiatives in the private and public sectors.

Work with other ministries to support First Nations' access to training and skills development and support systems associated with economic development.

*Minister Mary Polak participates in a dance at the initialling of the Tla'amin Final Treaty.*

Support governance and capacity initiatives, including community development approaches that build capacity in First Nations' governments and organizations such as youth and women's groups.

**Performance Measure 3: Engagement capacity**

| Performance Measure | 2009/10 Actual | 20010/11 Actual | 2011/12 Target | 2011/12 Actual |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Initiatives that develop capacity and governance capabilities for First Nation governments and Aboriginal organizations. | 12 | 12 | 12 | 38 EXCEEDED |

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

**Discussion of Results**

In 2011/12, the ministry worked on a number of initiatives to strengthen capacity and governance capabilities in First Nation communities. The Vancouver Island Aboriginal Youth Workers Forum facilitated networking opportunities and skill development for more than 60 local youth workers from Aboriginal organizations and First Nations communities. Work to support youth leadership development and capacity building for community staff with Ehattesaht First Nation continued. The ministry continued to work with communities to strengthen capacity for strategic planning. The ministry also assisted communities in building relationships and networks to access funding to support their priorities, among these the Ahp-cii-uk initiative with three Nuu-chah-nulth communities and the Tahltan Social-Cultural Working Group.

**Performance Measure 4: Economic development opportunities**

| Performance Measure | 2009/10 Actual | 20010/11 Actual | 2011/12 Target | 2011/12 Actual |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Initiatives that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples. | N/A | 17 | 15 | 16 EXCEEDED |

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

**Discussion of Results**

In 2011/12, the ministry partnered with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations and provided funding to create and stimulate economic opportunities. The ministry also supported economic opportunities through the First Citizens Fund Business Loan Program and Business Advisory Centers. The ministry also concluded negotiations to establish the Province's participation in the *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act* (FNCIDA) in 2011/12. FNCIDA is federal legislation intended to close significant gaps in regulation on reserve and help facilitate economic development projects. The legislation allows B.C. to enter into agreements with Canada and First Nations to administer provincial laws on reserve lands for specific projects.

## Objective 4: Build stronger relationships with urban and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.

### Strategies

Work to ensure that provincial initiatives to close social and economic gaps address the distinct needs of urban Aboriginal peoples.

Support coordinated and collaborative approaches by provincial ministries, the federal government and Aboriginal organizations that seek to address urban Aboriginal social and economic issues.

Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis.

Work with other ministries to support urban and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples' access to education, training, skills development and employment initiatives and support systems associated with economic development.

*Minister Polak with Chief Robert Joseph, executive director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society, Songhees Elder Butch Dick and BC Treaty Commission chief commissioner Sophie Pierre at the Gathering of Aboriginal Men: Standing Up Against Violence towards Aboriginal Women and Children event in Victoria.*

Improve data collection and reporting specific to the Métis and urban Aboriginal populations.

## Objective 5: Strengthen the Province's capacity to engage effectively with Aboriginal peoples.

### Strategies

Support and coordinate ministry and Crown agency actions related to the New Relationship and improving social and economic outcomes.

Work within government, with First Nations and with First Nation leaders to understand, clarify and seek solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.

Coordinate and streamline consultation processes; integrate information sharing practices within the ministry and with provincial government partners.

*Minister Mary Polak on Haida Gwaii with Guujaaw, President of the Council of the Haida Nation.*

Increase awareness of Aboriginal cultures, traditions and governance systems, and how culture impacts the way provincial representatives interact with Aboriginal peoples and communities.

Enhance corporate knowledge and awareness of working with Aboriginal peoples and communities to improve socio-economic outcomes including community development approaches.

## Objective 6: Increase awareness of the importance of Aboriginal cultures, and the history of the relationship between the Province and Aboriginal peoples.

### Strategies

Continue to work with First Nations and Métis leaders and organizations to celebrate their history, culture and current contributions to British Columbia.

Support the leadership of First Peoples Heritage, Language and Culture Council to revitalize First Nations languages, cultures, arts and heritage.

Support the addition of Aboriginal place names proposed by First Nations to the British Columbia Geographical Names Database.

Develop policy to acknowledge the history of the relationship between British Columbia and First Nations in development of agreements.

**Performance Measure 5: Public awareness**

| Performance Measure | 2009/10 Actual | 20010/11 Actual | 2011/12 Target | 2011/12 Actual |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Percentage of British Columbians who agree that First Nations have made a wide range of valuable contributions to B.C. | N/A | 75% | 75.5% | NOT APPLICABLE[4] |

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

### Discussion of Results

In 2011, BC Stats changed the wording of this question and changed the rating from a four- to a five-point scale. As a result, the previous baseline data is not comparable to the current data because respondents were choosing from among a different number of responses.

[4] BC Stats changed the possible answers for this question from 2010 to 2011. See text on page 21 for further details.

The ministry continues to work to increase positive public awareness and to honour the valuable contributions of Aboriginal peoples to British Columbia. For example, in 2011 the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation presented awards at the 2011 BC Creative Achievement Award recipients for First Nations' Art in Vancouver, celebrating artists who have achieved international recognition for their work. The ministry continues to support the annual B.C. Aboriginal Business Awards; now in its fourth year the awards celebrate and promote the achievements of Aboriginal business people around the province.

*Minister Mary Polak with award recipients at the third annual British Columbia Aboriginal Business Awards ceremony. The awards showcase the accomplishments of B.C.'s Aboriginal business community and its accomplishments.*

# Report on Resources

| Core Business Area | 2011/12 Estimates[1] | Other Authorizations[2] | Total Estimated | Actual | Variance[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Operating Expenses ($000) |
| Negotiations and Implementation | 18,134 | 217 | 18,351 | 12,667 | (5,684) |
| Community and Socio-Economic Development | 3,528 | 197 | 3,725 | 4,262 | 537 |
| Strategic Initiatives | 7,032 | 631 | 7,663 | 15,496 | 7,833 |
| Executive and Support Services | 6,316 | 0 | 6,316 | 3,630 | (2,686) |
| Treaty and Other Agreements Funding | 40,021 | 10,475 | 50,496 | 50,496 | 0 |
| First Citizen Fund Special Account | 3,649 | 0 | 3,649 | 3,589 | (60) |
| First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund | 1,350 | 0 | 1,350 | 1,333 | (18) |
| **Sub-Total** | **80,030** | **11,520** | **91,550** | **91,473** | **(78)** |
| Prior Year Accrual Reversals | 0 | 0 | 0 | (91) | (91) |
| **Total** | **80,030** | **11,520** | **91,550** | **91,382** | **(169)** |
| | | | | | Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000) |
| Executive and Support Services | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | (1) |
| **Total** | **1** | **0** | **1** | **0** | **(1)** |
| | | | | | Other Financing Transactions ($000) |
| **Settlement costs of Treaties and other agreements** | **1,750** | **0** | **1,750** | **120** | **(1,630)** |

[1] The amounts in the "2011/12 Estimates" column correspond to the *Estimates* as presented to the legislative assembly in May 2011.

[2] "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies.

[3] "Variance" represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimated, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

# Annual Service Plan Report Appendices

## Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

Toll-free information line: 1-800-880-1022

**Victoria**

Physical address:

2957 Jutland Road

Victoria, B.C. V8T 5J9

Mailing address:

PO BOX 9100

STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9B1

**Coast Region**

Physical address:

Ste. 142, 2080 Labieux Road

Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 6J9

**Northern Region**

Physical address:

3726 Alfred Avenue

Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

Mailing address:

Bag 5000

Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

**Southern Region**

Physical/mailing address:

3rd Floor – 441 Columbia Street

Kamloops, B.C. V2C 2T3

# Appendix B: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission
www.bctreaty.net/index.php

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council
www.fphlcc.ca/

New Relationship
http://www.newrelationship.gov.bc.ca/

New Relationship Trust
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the ministry can be found at:
www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm